DEWAN : How is this relevant to your subject?

The member said that he was speaking about the defects in the distribution of appointments generally and was only bringing to the notice of the Government a few specific instances. He was only representing the actual hardships entailed and said that, if the Government realised them, they would soon disappear. The Government should not give room to an officer to feel that he got his appointment not because he was duly qualified for it, but because he belonged to a particular community. If that mentality was developed, the result would be untold sufferings to the people. Only impartial and just men should be appointed as judicial officers, whatever might be the principle adopted in appointing officers in other departments. Under the rules in force, a European could be tried only by a European judge. The Government should guard against the contingency of similarly appointing separate judges for trying members of the several communities. Matters had progressed so far as to cause apprehension of such a contingency and the member said he was prepared to quote instances in support in the open Assembly or, if that was not necessary, he would go to the Dewan specially for the purpose.

DEWAN : You may come to me specially for the purpose.

Resuming, the member said that it was needless to refer to defects in the Registration Department as such reference would only be a cry in the wilderness.

As regards the Excise Department, a major part of its work was concentrated in the Shertallai taluk. The member pleaded that people from his taluk should be given encouragement in that department, no matter to whichever community they belonged.

A sum of about fifty lakhs of rupees was being spent annually in the shape of Government grants, contracts, etc. The inhabitants of Shertallai taluk should not be lost sight of in distributing that amount.

Lastly, he referred to the practice of circulating memorials for purposes of signature by the members of the Assembly and others at the current and past sessions. He said that the signatories affixed their signatures due to the influence of the persons carrying the memorials for circulation or for some other reasons.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Madhava Karta, I am very sorry, deeply grieved, that I have got to be impartial in the matter of the time-limit. If not, I could have listened on happily for a long time to your very humorous and amusing speech. But alas ! when we make rules, we must stick to them. Two things I have learnt from your speech to-day. One is that *vishayam*, meaning subject matter is something entirely different from *visham*, meaning poison. Another thing also I have learnt—you reserved it as a tit-bit for the finish up and that is, when a memorial is not a memorial. You also initiated me into the mysteries of the gentle art of signing memorials. For knowledge of these matters, I am deeply indebted to you. "The rest in person".

189. Suggestions for the improvement of the Administration.

MR. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Member, Municipal Council, Changanachery*) said that, considering the virtual failure of modern education, regard being had to the enormous expenditure on that account, the growth of unemployment among the educated, and the increase in the number of Colleges and High Schools side by side with the absence of industrial education, an educational survey was an indispensable and an immediate necessity. The main object of such a survey should be to remodel the existing educational scheme in view to make it more practical and also to control and bring down the expenditure on the Education Department. The Government were not taking measures to arrest the growth of expenditure on education. On the other hand, they were trying to enhance it, as evidenced by the fact that the Women's College was to be raised to the first grade. There were on the whole only 613 girl pupils in the High School classes of all the schools in the State and only a much smaller number would be successful in the School Final Examination and a still smaller number alone would go in for collegiate education. At a time when the economic condition of the people was going down, especially as a result of the change

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in the laws of succession and inheritance governing certain communities, and when there was no practical utility derived from higher education of females, the raising of the standard of the college was not necessary.

As regards colleges for boys, there was no need for two colleges at the Capital. If the two institutions be amalgamated as of old, a large amount could be saved. It was not advisable to launch fresh schemes for the sake of pleasing a few individuals. Another way of reducing the expenditure was by doing away with the large number of officers between the Director of Public Instruction and the teaching staff. According to the member, the number of Assistant Inspectors of Vernacular Schools could be reduced to four or five and the place of the Personal Assistant to the Director abolished. The duty of inspection could, to a large extent, be entrusted to the headmasters, subject to the control of the four or five Assistant Inspectors and the Chief Inspector.

Under the existing arrangement, the control over the Vernacular Section of the Education Department was practically vested in the Chief Inspector. He was burdened with the duty of appointing a large number of teachers and even transfers could not be effected without his sanction. The order regarding the transfer of teachers to their native places was not strictly observed in practice and many teachers were still put to much difficulty by being posted to foreign places. It would be more advantageous if the power of recommending transfers and appointments be entrusted to the Assistant Inspectors and the Chief Inspector acted according to their recommendations.

The control over private institutions was not satisfactory. Recognition and grants-in-aid were sanctioned without proper enquiry and such sanction often depended on the power and influence wielded by the management. The lot of the teachers in aided schools was very hard. With a meagre pittance of Rs. 7 each per mensem, they were asked to work as hard as the Government school teachers. It was the duty of the Government to have greater control over the private schools and also see that the teachers were properly paid.

The Provident Fund Scheme should be compulsorily introduced in all private schools. Such of the schools as did not introduce the scheme should not be given grants-in-aid. The teachers in private schools, at least the more responsible among them, should not be disbanded without the Director's sanction. Such teachers should also be appointed in vacancies arising in Government schools.

The Teachers' Associations should be made more practical in the working. If the untrained teachers be trained through such associations, the Training Schools could be abolished.

Another point to which the Government's attention was drawn by the member was the arbitrary way in which the Chief Inspector was delegating to, and withdrawing powers from, the Assistant Inspectors.

The poor people were put to untold difficulties on account of the irregularities practised in the subordinate courts. The only way of setting right the wrong decisions in such courts was by appeals to the higher courts. But the delay and the expense involved in such appeals deterred many people from having recourse to that remedy. It would be beneficial to the people at large, if the circuiting Judge of the High Court were asked to examine the judgments of the lower courts at least once a year. Surprise inspections by the High Court Judges should also be arranged. The member also endorsed what Mr. R. Sankaranarayana Aiyar, the member from the Trivandrum Municipal Council, stated about the defects in the administration of justice in the lower courts.

As for appointments in the higher ranks of the Judicial and Revenue Departments, the Government were adopting the policy of communal representation. So far as the Judicial Department was concerned, knowledge of the laws of the land should be given more importance than communal representation. The laws of inheritance and succession among the chief communities in the State were changing. At such a juncture, it was absolutely necessary that *Marumakkathayi* judges were

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present at least in the High Court. On account of the absence of such judges, many hardships were caused to the people as would be evidenced from certain High Court decisions. The number of *Marumakkathayi* judges had at no time in the past been so low as it was. It was imperative that the Government removed the defect at an early date. Further, the inefficient judges of the subordinate courts should be found out during the annual inspections by the High Court Judges and transferred to other departments. It would also be advisable to transfer the control over the Magistracy to the High Court.

As regards the Revenue Department also, it was not desirable to adopt the principle of communal representation. The land tenures in Travancore were complicated. It was therefore necessary to appoint experienced officers fully conversant with the several tenures. Otherwise, the administration of that department would result in utter confusion. If a large number of revenue cases was pending decision, it was partly the result of the policy adopted by the Government in making appointments in the Revenue Department. If communal representation was indispensable, it should be confined to recruitment in the lower ranks ; and only after they had gained experience should they be promoted.

Lastly, in regard to the assignment of *puduval* lands to Messrs. Brooke Bond and Company, the Dewan had stated that "the final verdict will lie with the representatives of the people ". It would be conceded that the representatives of the people were the members of the Assembly. As they had given out their opinion, it was not necessary to wait any longer for ascertaining the wishes of the people.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Gopala Pillai, your observations on the subject of education generally indicate that you have given the subject close thought. I shall have them all conveyed to the Director of Public Instruction for careful consideration. Similarly too, in regard to the general remarks about the High Court and the administration of justice, I shall place your views before that body for deliberation. I shall now confine my attention to the remarks you made in connection with one or two minor points.

You say that aided schools need a little more scrutiny so as to ensure efficiency all round. You also advocate the making of the subscription to the Provident Fund compulsory. I may mention that there is a file on that subject steadily gaining volume and, I hope, momentum, in the Secretariat.

With regard to the policy of the Government in making appointments to the higher ranks in the Revenue and Judicial Departments, in so far as your views make for the upholding of efficiency and ability, the Government will bear them in mind.

190. Responsible Government for Travancore.

MR. NARAYANA PILLAI VISVANATHA PILLAI (*Member, Quilon taluk, Group I*) spoke about the need for establishing responsible Government in Travancore. The Secretary of State for India and His Excellency the Viceroy had stated in the Montford Report that responsible government should be established in Indian States. In the Proclamation of 1917, it had also been stated that "Responsible Government is the goal of British administration in India". The need for such government in Indian States had also been advocated by great men such as Sir P. Sivaswami Aiyar, the Rt. Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, Mr. S. Srinivasa Aiyangar and also in the *Manchester Guardian*, the *London Times* and other leading organs. Recent depositions of rulers in certain Indian States were as a result of irresponsible rule. The above clearly proved the need for responsible government in Indian States. So far as Travancore was concerned, the matter had been urged upon the Government at several sessions of the Assembly. It was not easy for a single individual to carry on the important measures connected with the several departments in the State. That was the reason why there was delay in despatch and execution of business. The Assembly and the Council sessions themselves arrested normal work for about two months of the year. The remaining ten months of the year were too short a period for the successful carrying on of official business. That was one of the chief causes of the failure of the administration of many an able Dewan. Administration by a single Dewan was not therefore satisfactory.

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